



April 12, 2017

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

Any where you go there can be history to be discovered. Sullivan County is no different in this regard. And we who deal with history find that as time goes by, more and more of that history can be lost – which why we do what we do. To that end, the Sullivan County Historical Society began last year working with the Sullivan County Conservation District, to put a brochure out for both residents and visitors alike, called History Quest 2016.

This brochure did and will continue to have twelve questions listed on it that will change each year. Answering ten of them will earn you a wooden nickel with the current year written on it. The point of the project was to get people to actually go visit the site of the question to then find the answer. Example: (with a photo of the Dushore train station on Railroad Street) Built in 1871, in its heyday the station served six passenger trains a day, providing connections between Towanda and Wilkes-Barre. The rails were severely damaged in the floods of 1972 and were mostly removed in 1978. What time did the east-bound trains depart the station? [To find the answer, it is on a posted time table on the building itself.] What we didn't know initially nor throughout last summer was if this project was having any success. You see, the wooden nickels were to be our sort of gauge for success but very few people were turning their answered brochures in to receive a wooden nickel. But what we began to discover coming into fall and are still experiencing are people being excited and looking forward to this year's History Quest to discover more about Sullivan County after having done the one for 2016. In fact, we did not and could not keep any sort of count but think that we can safely say that the numbers of people participating is at the very least a couple of hundred just from written or oral feedback that we've received. For some this was just a curiosity thing to do, others it was something to do to occupy time and for some there were whole families discovering the answers together. It was also nice to know that the interest for this came from all age groups, both separately and working together to go all about Sullivan County on an adventure.

The other plus to this project is a subject highlighted talk given in the summer. Last year it was on the history of Nordmont and the Acid Works reclamation held at the museum's complex in Laporte and was very well attended. For this year the talk will be held on Sat., July 29th at 1 p.m., again at the museum. The subject will be the History of Mining and Reclamation, which pertains to one of the questions on this year's brochure. All are welcome to discover and learn about what was an interracial industry in Sullivan County at one time.

So all totaled, from the Sullivan County Historical Society and the Sullivan County Conservation District, we wish to thank all of you who did participate and thank those of you in advance who will take this year's challenge to discover Sullivan County's history.

To contact the museum you can phone 579-946-5020, or email museum@scpahistory.com or visit our website at www.scpahistory.com And, while you're at it: please like us on Facebook.